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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2798

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2D  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2000 2008

E.O. 12065: GDS 6/20/85 (WHITE, ROBERT E.) OR-M  
TAGS: PGOV, PA  
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT CONTEMPLATES REMOVING CITIZENSHIP OF NAZI  
WAR CRIMINAL

REF: (A) ASUNCION 2475; (B) ASUNCION 2727

1. DURING MY JUNE 15 CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES, MUCH TO MY SURPRISE, HE BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF DR. JOSEF MENGELE. HE STATES THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY BECOME ACUTELY AWARE OF THE DAMAGING EFFECT THAT THE GRANT OF PARAGUAYAN CITIZENSHIP TO DR. JOSEF MENGELE WAS HAVING ON PARAGUAY'S IMAGE IN THE WORLD AND ESPECIALLY IN THE UNITED STATES. THERE WERE OBLIQUE REFERENCES (A) TO MY REMARKS IN AN ABC INTERVIEW WHERE I STATED IT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE FOR AMERICANS TO BELIEVE THAT MENGELE RESIDED IN THE COUNTRY WHERE HE HAD CITIZENSHIP (REF A) AND (B) TO THE SARCASTIC AND INSULTING LETTER OF DR. GONZELEZ ALSINA (REF B). NOGUES ASKED ME IF I THOUGH IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO DECLARE NULL AND VOID THE PARAGUAYAN CITIZENSHIP OF MENGELE.

2. I REPLIED FIRST RECALLING THAT IT WAS NEVER MY INTENTION TO INTRUDE THE MENGELE CASE INTO OUR RELATIONS; THAT WAS THE DOING OF THE GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER PATRIA. BUT AS LONG AS HE HAD DONE ME THE COURTESY OF ASKING, I OFFERED MY STRONG OPINION THAT THIS WOULD BE A BRILLIANT IF LONG OVERDUE MOVE ON THE PART OF THE GOP.

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